

SPECIAL INTEREST VESSELS

The Special Interest Vessel (SIV) Program controls and monitors the entry of vessels that bear the flag of certain countries into U.S. ports, internal waters, and Territorial Sea.

The Shipping Agent Guidelines (SAG) discusses the general requirements of the SIV program. However, the SIV categories and the category countries have been revised. The correct categories and countries are listed below. A new version of the Shipping Agent Guidelines will be released shortly.

There are currently two Special Interest Vessel (SIV) categories:

CATEGORY ONE SIV (Restricted Countries):

- RUSSIA (RS)
- VIETNAM (VM)
- CAMBODIA (CB)

CATEGORY TWO SIV (Non-Entrant Countries):

- CUBA (CU)
- IRAQ (IZ)¹
- IRAN (IR)
- LIBYA (LY)
- NORTH KOREA (KN)
- SUDAN (SU)
- SYRIA (SY)
- YUGOSLAVIA (YO)

- Category Two SIV – Are not allowed entry into U.S. Ports.

- Category One SIV (> 300 Gross Tons) - The 96-HOUR Notice Of Arrival (NOA) applies to all vessels over 300 Gross Tons from Restricted Countries.
- Category One SIV (\leq 300 Gross Tons) - All Category One SIV's less than or equal to 300 Gross Tons must give 72-HOUR Notice Of Arrival (NOA).

- Note:
1. The Republic of Iraq is currently a non-entrant nation, Category II SIV for all U.S. ports and territories. The non-entrant status applies to:
 - Republic of Iraq Merchant Vessels - Republic of Iraq merchant vessels include vessels flying the flag of Iraq or, regardless of flag of registry, are under the effective control of Iraq.

Effective control means a vessel is owned, operated (to include managing owners and operators) or under charter to Iraqi entities. It also includes vessels with Iraqi citizens serving as Master, Chief Mate, or Chief Engineer.

Iraqi Crewmembers onboard vessels other than Category Two SIV's not in the critical positions listed above will be detained on board the vessel while in port.

The restrictions above do not apply to Iraqi citizens who are passengers on cruise vessels.

Any Questions concerning the Special Interest Vessel Program please contact the SIV Help Desk at (202) 267-0480.

After Hours or Emergency Situations please
Contact the Coast Guard Command Center at
1-800-424-8802